

CLAIMS5 **What is claimed is:**

1. A system for presenting a visual status indicator of system user status, within an electronic document, for one or more system users, the system comprising:

user indicator presentation means for presenting one or more user indicators within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

10 status determining means for determining a system user's status for system users associated with the one or more user indicators; and

status indicator presenting means for presenting a status indicator with the user indicators to show that system user's status.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the status indicator comprises at least one symbol.

15 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the status presenting means presents the status indicator through use of at least one menu.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the status indicator comprises color coding.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the status presenting means indicates a system user's status by altering representations of the status indicator for that user.

20 6. A method for presenting a visual status indicator of system user status within an electronic document, for one or more system users, the method comprising the steps of:

presenting one or more user indicators within an electronic document,

determining a system user's status for system users associated with the one or more user indicators; and

25 presenting a visual status indicator with the one or more of the user indicators, wherein the visual status indicator indicates the system user's status for the one or more system users associated with that user indicator.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting at least one symbol with the status indicator.

30 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of presenting comprises presenting at least one menu with the status indicator.

5 9. The method of claim 6, wherein the step of presenting a visual status indicator comprises color coding.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of presenting one or more communication preferences for the one or more system users.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of establishing one or more communications with the one or more system users.

12. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of sharing at least one application with the one or more system users.

13. A system for presenting a visual status indicator of system user status within an electronic document, for one or more system user indicators, the system comprising:

15 a user indicator presentation module that presents one or more user indicators within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

 a status determining module that determines the system user's status for system users associated with the one or more user indicators; and

20 a status indicator presenting module that presents a status indicator with the user indicators to show that system user's status.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the status indicator comprises at least one symbol.

15. The system of claim 13, wherein the status presenting module presents the status indicator using at least one menu.

25 16. The system of claim 13, wherein the status indicator comprises color coding.

17. The system of claim 13, wherein the status presenting means indicates a system user's status by altering representations of the status indicator for that user.

18. A processor readable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for presenting a visual status indicator of system user status within an electronic document,

30 for one or more system user indicators, the medium comprising:

5 user indicator presenting processor readable code that causes a processor to present one or more user indicators within an electronic document, each user indicator being associated with at least one system user;

status determining processor readable code that causes a processor to determine a system user's status for system users associated with the one or more user indicators; and

10 10 status indicator presenting processor readable code that presents a status indicator with the user indicators to show that system user's status.

19. The medium of claim 18, wherein the status indicator comprises at least one symbol.

20. The medium of claim 18, wherein the status presenting processor readable code causes a processor to present the status indicator using at least one menu.

15 21. The medium of claim 18, wherein the status presenting processor readable code causes a processor to present the status indicator using color coding.

22. The medium of claim 21, further comprising communication establishing processor readable code that causes a processor to establish at least one communication with one or more system users.

20 23. The medium of claim 22, further comprising communication preference processor readable code that causes a processor to enable the one or more system users to identify a preference for receiving the at least one communication.

24. The medium of claim 18, further comprising conference communications processor readable code that causes a processor to enable the one or more system users to establish conference communications.

25 25. The medium of claim 24, wherein the conference communications processor readable code causes a processor to enable the one or more system users to share at least one application.